

CLAIMS

1        1.     Apparatus for treating floor covering, comprising:  
2            (a)    an energy source, and  
3            (b)    structure for supporting the energy source and contacting the floor  
4    covering while moving the energy source and floor covering relative to each other  
5    in a predetermined relationship during treatment of the floor covering with the  
6    energy source.

1        2.     Apparatus for use during installation of floor covering for treating a  
2    portion of a face of the floor covering proximate an edge of the floor covering to  
3    change the appearance of the floor covering in the treated portion, the apparatus  
4    comprising:

5            (a)    a heat source,  
6            (b)    structure on which the heat source is mounted for maintaining a  
7    desired relationship between the heat source and the floor covering during  
8    treatment of the floor covering.

1        3.     The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the heat source is a hot air gun.

1        4.     The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the mounting structure comprises  
2    a frame to which the heat source is attached and at least one guide for contact with  
3    an edge of the floor covering.

1        5.     The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the mounting structure further  
2    comprises at least one roller for contact with the face of the floor covering.

1        6.     The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the guide further comprises at  
2    least one rotating member.

1        7.     The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the guide comprises two arms  
2    projecting from the frame on opposite sides of the heat source, and the at least one

3       rotating member comprises two rotating members, one of which is attached to each  
4       of the two arms.

1           8.       The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the frame is adjustable to vary the  
2       position of the heat source relative to the floor covering.

1           9.       The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the frame further comprises a heat  
2       source holder to which the heat source is attached and a frame stanchion to which  
3       the heat source holder is adjustable attached so that the holder can be positioned in  
4       a plurality of distances from the floor covering.

1           10.      Apparatus for treating a portion of a face of floor covering  
2       proximate an edge of the floor covering to change the appearance of the floor  
3       covering in the treated portion by heating, the apparatus comprising:  
4           (a)      a base,  
5           (b)      a plurality of rollers attached to the base for contact with the face of  
6       the floor covering during use of the apparatus,  
7           (c)      two guide arms attached to the base and two guide bearings for  
8       contact with an edge of the floor covering during use of the apparatus, one of  
9       which guide bearings is attached to each guide arm, and  
10          (d)     a hot air gun attached to a hot air gun mount adjustably attached to  
11       the base so that the distance of the hot air gun from the face of the floor covering  
12       during use of the apparatus may be adjusted.

1           11.      The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the guide bearings are guide  
2       rollers.

1           12.      The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the positions of the guide  
2       bearings relative to the base are adjustable so that the position of the hot air gun  
3       relative to the edge of the floor covering during use of the apparatus is adjustable.

1           13.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the projection of the arms from  
2   the base is adjustable.

1           14.   The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the plurality of rollers comprises  
2   two rollers.

1           15.   The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising at least one handle  
2   attached to the structure for manipulating the apparatus during use.

1           16.   A method for changing the appearance of a portion of the face of  
2   floor covering during installation of the floor covering, comprising:

3           (a) positioning a hot air gun mounted on a carriage proximate an edge of  
4   the floor covering,

5           (b) with the hot air gun on, moving the hot air gun across the face of the  
6   floor covering along the edge to heat the portion of the face of the floor covering  
7   adjacent to the edge to change the appearance of the portion while maintaining  
8   contact between first reference structure of the carriage and the face of the floor  
9   covering and between second reference structure of the carriage and the edge of the  
10   floor covering.

1           17.   The method of claim 16, wherein the first reference structure  
2   comprises a plurality of rollers.

1           18.   The method of claim 16, wherein the second reference structure  
2   comprises rotatable bearings.

1           19.   A method of installing, on a building floor, floor covering modules  
2   having a “grouted edge” appearance, comprising:

3           (a) installing on the building floor modules that can be positioned  
4   thereon without cutting the modules,

5               (b)     cutting modules to sizes necessary to complete covering of the  
6 building floor after installation of the un-cut modules, and  
7               (c)     positioning a hot air gun mounted on a carriage proximate an edge  
8 of each cut module where a "grouted edge" appearance is desired, and, with the hot  
9 air gun on, moving the hot air gun across the face of the floor covering module  
10 along the edge to heat the portion of the face of the floor covering adjacent to the  
11 edge to change the appearance of the portion while maintaining contact between  
12 first reference structure of the carriage and the face of the floor covering and  
13 between second reference structure of the carriage and the edge of the floor  
14 covering.

1               20.     The method of claim 18, further comprising:

2               (d)     installing each field-cut module on the building floor in the position  
3 for which such module was cut.